ESSEX

The Gateway County

Essex County Colleges and Universities

Essex County is the largest center of higher education in the State and the fifth largest in the nation. Known as the "university county," it is home to 9 major colleges and universities. The county maintains Essex County College, a two-year fully accredited community college as well as five vocational and technical high schools and one technical careers center.

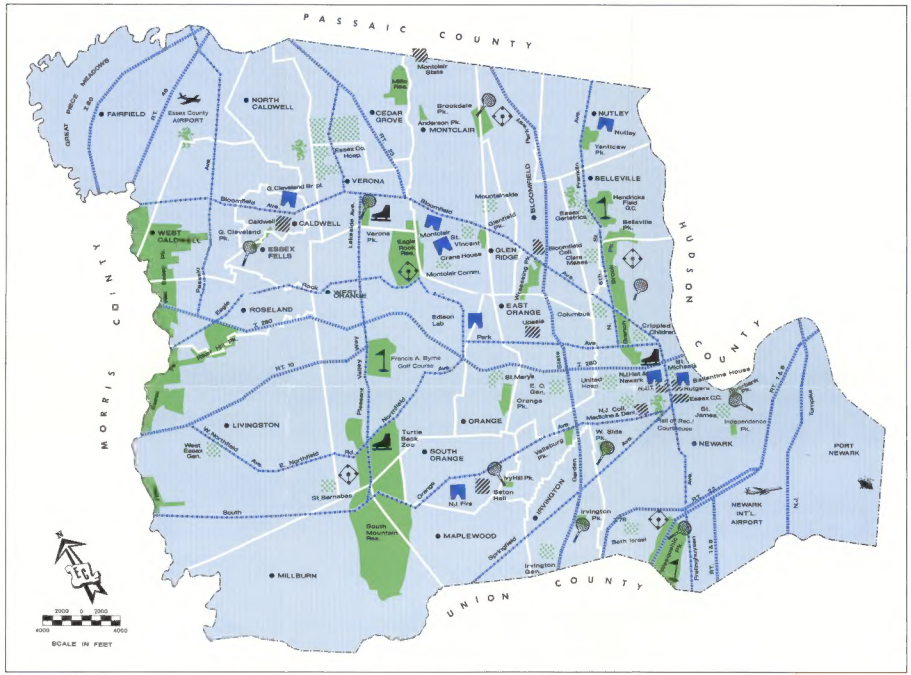
Bloomfield	Bloomfield College Franklin Street
Caldwell	Caldwell College Bloomfield Avenue
East Orange	Upsala College Prospect Street
Newark	Essex County College University Avenue
Newark	N.J. College of Medicine & Dentistry Bergen Street
Newark	N.J. Institute of Technology High Street
Newark	Rutgers - The State University University Avenue
South Orange	Seton Hall University South Orange Avenue
Upper Montclair	Montclair State College Valley Road

The New Jersey College of Medicine & Dentistry, (left) and Essex County College, both in Newark, are two of the newest and most impressive institutions of higher education in the county.

Essex County Parks

Upper Montclair	Anderson Park
Belleville	Belleville Park
Newark	Branch Brook Park
Bloomfield/Montclair	Brookdale Park
Montclair	Glenfield Park
Caldwell/Essex Fells	Grover Cleveland Park
Newark	Independence Park
Irvington	Irvington Park
Newark/So. Orange	Ivy Hill Park
Orange	Orange Park
Cedar Grove	Mills Reservation
Livingston	Riker Hill Park • Observation Area • Geological Museum and Visitor's Center
Newark **W. Orange/So. Orange/Millburn**	Riverbank Park South Mountain Reservation
West Orange	Turtle Back Zoo
Newark	Vailsburg Park
Verona	Verona Park
Livingston/Roseland	Walter Kidde Dinosaur Park • Interpretive Trail (smallest dinosaur prints ever found) West Essex Park
Bloomfield	Watsessing Park
Newark	Weequahic Park
Livingston/Roseland/W. Caldwell/Fairfield	West Essex Park • Environmental Center • canoe trips • fishing • ecology walks • bird watching
Newark	West Side Park
Nutley	Yanticaw Park

Santa takes time to visit Turtle Back Zoo and some of the 250 different species of animals. The zoo, open year-round, is set on 16 rolling acres in West Orange.



Legend

Universities, Hospitals, Towns, Tennis, Parks, Major Roads, Government Facilities, Golf, Museums, County Roads, Ice Skating, Baseball

Essex County Museums and National Historic Sites

A number of excellent museums along with many private homes have helped to preserve the county's rich cultural and ethnic heritage. During the 1976 Bi-centennial celebration, numbers of private homes, public buildings and churches were designated as national historic sites.

Caldwell	Grover Cleveland Birthplace
Montclair	Israel Crane House
Montclair	Montclair Art Museum
Newark	Ballantine House
Newark	Newark Museum
Newark	New Jersey Historical Society Museum
Nutley	Nutley Museum
South Orange	New Jersey Fire Museum
West Orange	Edison Laboratory National Museum

Two of the most popular visitor attractions in the county are the Montclair Art Museum, (left) and the Ballantine House, in Newark.

Hospitals and Clinics

Belleville	Clara Mass	751-1000
Newark	Columbus Hospital	485-3400
Newark	College of Medicine & Dentistry	456-4300
E. Orange	East Orange General Hospital	672-8400
Orange	Hospital Center of Orange	678-1100
Irvington	Irvington General Hospital	399-6000
Montclair	Montclair Community Hospital	744-7300
Montclair	Mountainside Hospital	746-6000
Newark	Newark Beth-Israel Medical Center	926-3000
Livingston	St. Barnabas Medical Center	533-5000
Newark	St. James Hospital	589-1300
Orange	St. Mary's Hospital	678-4400
Newark	St. Michael's Hospital	623-8200
Montclair	St. Vincent's Hospital	746-4000
Newark	United Hospital Crippled Children's Unit	268-7000
Newark	United Hospital Medical Center	268-7000
Livingston	West Essex General Hospital	992-6550

NEW JERSEY REFERENCE
NEWARK LIBRARY

NR 9

ESSEX

The Gateway County

The Gateway County

Essex County is one of the oldest and most highly developed counties in America. Formed in 1682 as one of the four original counties into which the province of East Jersey was divided, Essex has grown to become America's "Gateway County."

With a newly constructed International Airport and the largest containerized shipping port in the world, as well as an unparalled network of highway and rail transportation, Essex is truly a "gateway" center not only to the entire New York/New Jersey metropolitan region, but to the nation.

Its key location in the New York-New Jersey Port Authority District has made it an attractive location for some of the world's major corporate headquarters.

Collectively, the 22 muncipalities that comprise Essex County, including its largest city, Newark, represent one of the largest counties in the United States—larger, in fact, than 13 states.

As one of the oldest counties in America, Essex continues to attract new development and construction. One of the newest additions is the suburban headquarters of the Howard Savings Bank.

ESSEX

The Financial Hub of New Jersey

Spurred by its key location in the New York/New Jersey Port District, Essex County has been the industrial and financial hub of the State of New Jersey for decades. More than 350 different types of businesses and industry produce an aggregate income of over $2.3 billion annually for the nearly one million people who live in the county. Total real property values now exceed $7 billion with an annual growth of $500 million.

For a number of years, Essex County has ranked among the top ten counties nationwide in population, property valuations, volume and variety of industrial and business activity.

A sophisticated system of rail and highway transportation makes it convenient for businesses to attract a trained labor force, receive raw materials, and ship finished products. Essex has eight major highways and three super highways crossing within its boundries. The largest traffic interchange in the world is presently nearing completion at a site just opposite Newark International Airport. Four of the most heavily traveled arteries in the eastern United States converge at that point: Interstate Route 78, Routes 1 and 9, Routes 21 and 22, and the New Jersey Turnpike. When completed, it will be able to accommodate a peak flow of 415,000 cars hourly.

An active CETA training program working cooperatively with local colleges and universities helps provide a skilled labor pool for some of the newest and most technical job skills.

The $500 million, ten-year redevelopment program at Newark International Airport is one of the most ambitious economic development projects ever undertaken in the county and will make Newark one of the fastest growing airports in the nation. Three new passenger terminals completed in 1974 connect directly to 83 gate positions for some of the largest aircraft in service today. A ten minute cab ride to Newark and a 30 minute ride to New York City make Newark International Airport an increasingly attractive choice for national and international travelers alike. At present, with two of the three new terminals in service, 23 cargo and passenger airlines employ some 6,000 persons; carrying 9,000,000 passengers, and transport over 109,000 tons of commodities.

On 700 acres directly adjacent to the airport is Port Newark, the site of the largest containerized shipping operation in the world and the nation's premier port of entry for foreign cars. It is also the nation's largest import-export center for frozen meats.

Over forty steamship lines carrying every conceivable commodity and type of merchandise from all over the world use Port Newark as a regular port-of-call. There are 18 cargo terminal buildings and 24 cargo distribution buildings plus facilities for bulk wines, lumber and cold storage. The estimated annual cargo handled is over six million tons.

Railroads have always been of major importance to Essex, the "Gateway County." AMTRAK, CONRAIL and the Lehigh Valley Railroad link Essex, its people and its products to the rest of the nation. A $24 million redevelopment of Pennsylvania Railroad Station in Newark includes a 30-story office tower, a ten-story modern motor hotel and a shopping plaza. Appropriately named "the Gateway Complex," it is a symbol of the vitality and economic diversity of this gateway county.

An unparalled network of air, rail, and sea transit offers unlimited potential to attract a trained labor force, receive raw materials & ship finished products. From left, Newark International Airport, PATH Newark-NYC service, and Port Newark, the site of the largest containerized shipping port in the world.

Essex County offers:

* a colorful history
* a prosperous and diverse economy
* a highly sophisticated and efficient transportation network
* a newly reorganized county government
* a rich supply of recreational, cultural and historic attractions
* the largest center of higher education in the state with 9 major colleges and universities
* a proud heritage of cultural and ethnic diversity
* a skilled workforce

Produced by the Essex County Department of Planning & Economic Development and the Division of Public Information under a grant provided by the State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

For further information, call 201-961-7040.

PETER SHAPIRO
Essex County Executive

ESSEX COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

Freeholders-at-Large

BERNICE S. DAVIS — **MARTIN G. SCATURO**
JEROME D. GRECO — **LINCOLN TURNER**

District Freeholders

ANGELO CIFELLI, JR.
District I – Newark (North Ward, East Ward, Part of West Ward)

PEARL BEATTY
District II – Newark (South Ward, Central Ward, Part of West Ward)

DANIEL TINDALL, III
District III
East Orange, Irvington, Maplewood, Newark (Part of West Ward), South Orange

JAMES M. PIRO
District V
Belleville, Bloomfield, Cedar Grove, Montclair, North Caldwell, Nutley

LORRYNE (RENEE) LANE
District IV
Caldwell, Essex Fells, Fairfield, Glen Ridge, Livingston, Millburn, Orange, Roseland, Verona, West Caldwell, West Orange

The County Executive—Freeholder Government

Essex County Executive Peter Shapiro, the first person to hold that position following voter approval of a charter referendum, took the oath of office on November 13, 1978 on the front steps of the Hall of Records in Newark.

County government is perhaps the most misunderstood level of government that exists today. Relatively few people understand the role of county elected officials or the scope of services that counties deliver.

Essex County recently completed the most comprehensive reorganization of government since the inception of the Freeholder form in 1798. In November, 1977 after 180 years of Freeholder government, the people of Essex County voted to approve the County Executive plan under the New Jersey Optional County Charter Law. On November 13, 1978 the County's first Executive, Peter Shapiro, was sworn into office on the front steps of the Hall of Records in Newark. Nine Freeholders, four at-large and five representing districts, also took their oaths-of-office, thereby creating the first executive-legislative system of government in the County's history.

The reorganization, as outlined in the newly adopted Administrative Code which took effect on May 1, 1979 calls for a clear separation of powers and duties between the two branches of government.

It enumerates the functions of each branch, outlines a sophisticated information reporting system, and details a major restructuring of some 68 departments, agencies and commissions into a network of eight new departments under the supervision of the County Executive and the County Administrator. In the eight new departments, 32 separate divisions now conduct County government operations and programs. In addition, a number of advisory boards have been created to provide citizen input and help develop policy and program initiatives at the department and division level.

This new consolidation and reorganization is designed to offer the people of the County a more efficient, centrally managed and professionally supervised government with county officials who can be more accountable to the voter.

Essex County, with a 1980 operating budget of $363 million has been a pioneer in fulfilling its responsibilities and mandates in one of the most densely populated counties in America.

Did you know, for example that—

* The Essex County Park system, created in 1895 was the first county park system in the United States, and is today the largest, encompassing 5,645 acres
* The Essex County Hospital Center in Cedar Grove is the largest county psychiatric institution in the United States.
* The County's District Court is the 16th busiest civil court in the nation; it handles approximately 43,000 cases annually.
* Essex County's court system, second in size only to Los Angeles County, selects more than 64,000 jurors annually
* The Essex County Division of Roads and Bridges repairs and maintains 220 miles of county roadways

County Executive Plan

Power and Duties of the Executive

* Administers county operations
* Appoints County Administrator subject to Freeholder approval
* Appoints department and division heads and advisory boards, subject to Freeholder Board confirmation
* Appoints and evaluates all officials in administrative service
* Prepares annual budget and State of the County message
* Introduces legislation
* Signs or vetoes legislation
* Serves a 4 year term

The Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders meets weekly at sessions held at the Hall of Records in Newark.

Power and Duties of the Freeholder Board

* Passes ordinances and resolutions
* 2/3 veto override
* Modifies and approves annual budget
* Appoints investigative subcommittees
* Appoints Clerk to the Board and Counsel to the Board
* Confirms appointments of the Administrator, department heads and others designated in the Administrative Code
* Serves 3-year term. The entire Board of Freeholders is elected simultaneously. Five are elected by district, four are elected at large

Executive & Legislative Offices

County Executive

County Administrator

Board of Chosen Freeholders

Department of Administration & Finance
* Accounts & Control
* Budget & Management
* Data Processing
* Personnel
* Public Information
* Purchasing
* Treasurer
* Employees Retirement System

Department of Citizen Services
* Aging
* Community Action
* Consumer Affairs
* Welfare
* Youth Services

Department of Health & Rehabilitation
* Community Health Services
* Geriatrics Center
* Hospital Center

Department of Law

Department of Planning & Economic Development
* Community Development
* Economic Growth
* Employment Training
* Planning

Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs
* Arts & Culture
* Parks & Recreation

Department of Public Safety
* Correctional Services
* County Police
* Emergency Management
* Medical Examiner

Department of Public Works
* Buildings & Grounds
* Engineering
* Environmental Services
* Fleet Management
* Roads & Bridges
* Security

Board of Chosen Freeholders
* Freeholder President
* Freeholder Vice President
* 4 At-Large Freeholders
* 5 District Freeholders
* Clerk to the Board of Freeholders
* Counsel to the Board of Freeholders

Judiciary
* Assignment Judge
* Superior Court
* Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court
* District Court
* Tax Court
* Probation Department

Statutory & Constitutional Offices
* Prosecutor
* Sheriff
* County Clerk
* Register of Deeds & Mortgages
* Surrogate

Non-Departmental Offices & Boards
* Commissioner of Registration & Superintendent of Elections
* Board of Elections
* Board of Taxation
* Essex County Improvement Authority

Educational Units
* Essex County College
* Essex County Vocational School
* Essex County Superintendent of Schools

ESSEX

A Historical Profile

Four hundred years ago, the only people living in what is now Essex County were the Lenni Lenapes Indians. When Henry Hudson "discovered" the New Jersey area in 1609, the days of this native New Jersey Indian tribe were numbered.

By 1666 thirty Connecticut families headed by Robert Treat, arrived to establish a settlement along the bank of the Passaic River in the area of present-day Newark. Soon a small group of Indians interfered in their settlement claiming "no wampum-no land." Within a year, the Indians and settlers were able to reach an agreement and the land was purchased for $800. Today, the value of the land is estimated to be well over $7 billion.

Essex County was officially established in 1682 by the East Jersey Legislature as one of the four original counties of present day New Jersey. By the time of the American Revolution, Essex County residents were quite prosperous. After the war, the County entered a period of unprecedented industrial growth. This prosperity was due primarily to the completion of the Morris Canal which connected Jersey City to Delaware through Newark, the New Jersey Railroad and the Morris and Essex Railroad companies. The factories that grew-up around these waterways and transportation arteries drew waves of immigrants from all over Europe.

As the Civil War was about to erupt, New Jersey was the only northern state to vote against Lincoln in the Presidential election of 1860. That vote reflected the County's reluctance to get involved in the war against the South and lose one of its most promising markets for trade. In the latter part of the century, the famed Thomas Edison and John Wesley Hyatt (the inventor of celluloid) produced their major work in laboratories located in Essex County.

President Teddy Roosevelt came to Newark in 1904 to officiate at the dedication of the new Essex County Courthouse. The building was recently named a National Historic Landmark.

During the late 1800's insurance companies, banks and savings institutions made Newark a leading financial center.

The "Roaring Twenties" was a decade of thriving prosperity, particularly in the building trades industry. Newark Airport was opened October 1, 1928 and many of the county's boroughs and townships experienced a major development of single family homes.

The stock market crash of 1929 along with the enforcement of prohibition severely crippled the thriving Essex economy. However, the decade of the thirties saw the repeal of prohibition, the re-opening of the breweries, the building of the Pulaski Skyway and the general economic recovery of the county. More recently a ten-year redevelopment program for Newark International Airport; the recently completed New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry; a new County College completed in 1976; the recently completed headquarters of P.S.E. & G. the State' largest public utility; and the projected development of a new industrial park financed by the New York/New Jersey Port Authority are vivid indications of a continuing commitment on the part of the education and business community to the State's oldest and largest county.

Geographically Speaking

Essex is a rich blend of urban and suburban living. An easy commute to Newark and New York City continues to make this early "trolley car suburb" still an attractive place for executives and business people.

When Robert Treat negotiated with Chief Oraton (for whom Oraton Parkway is named) for the purchase of the land which is now Newark, the area was eminently suitable for farming. The energetic, inventive people who came to inhabit the area soon took advantage of the topography and natural resources to expand their endeavors and their wealth. Industry and commerce flourished in the area's unique geographic location which was gateway to the entire northeastern and south-eastern sections of the nation. At an early date, Newark became a center for leather tanning, hat making and ship building. Later, electronics, communications, beer brewing, apparel manufacturing, banking and insurance kept Newark humming.

The County is bordered on the east and west by the Passaic River. Its land, formed gradually, rises in elevation from a coastal marsh in the eastern portion of the City of Newark to the Watchung Mountains in central Essex. The western portion of the County drops moderately from the Watchung Mountains to the low lying Passaic River. The Watchung Mountains, as a natural barrier, effectively directed the flow of urban growth so that the 127 square miles designated as Essex County originally expanded in a north-south pattern from Newark, and later developed westward. Thus, the County's geographic features have been a major factor in dividing the county into three distinct sections.

The eastern section is the industrial heartland of the county, consisting of Newark's business district, Newark International Airport, Port Newark, and the area's oldest private residences. Newark, the hub of Essex, has approximately 40% of the County's total population.

The central section, once known as the "trolley car suburbs" grew rapidly after the turn of the century when trolley lines were built to carry workers from industrial Newark to the less crowded outlying towns of Irvington, East Orange, Orange, and Bloomfield. Commuter railroad lines which bypassed Newark and carried businessmen from Manhattan's financial district to South Orange, Maplewood, Millburn, Glen Ridge and Montclair set the pattern for the large and gracious homes of Essex County's more affluent suburbs. Today, a network of buses and railroads serve to provide transportation for all Essex County communities to and from New York City as well as Newark.

Development of the western section of the county was slowed because of the difficulty and expense of getting through the mountainous terrain of the Watchung Mountains. However, the demand for modern industrial plants and new residential acreage forced the development of communities west of the mountains. Livingston, Fairfield, Roseland, Cedar Grove, Essex Fells and the Caldwells are Essex County's newest and fastest growing communities. Residents of the western section enjoy old farmlands side by side with modern homes and shopping malls, an abundance of open space and room for further development. In addition, they have the convenience of Route 280, an artery that feeds into the Garden State Parkway and Newark, and connects to the New Jersey Turnpike.

The newer industrial parks in the western portion of the county provide employment in parklike settings, along with an expanding ratable base to help relieve the tax burden for local homeowners.